

Exclusive News by Special Cable From the Capitals of the Old World



T.C. Druce—Proprietor of the Baker Street Bazaar

FAMOUS DRUCE CLAIM
LONDON'S LEADING TOPICPreliminary to Suit for Title and Estates of Duke of Portland it
Excites Widespread and Absorbing Interest

LONDON, Nov. 30. THE famous Druce case continues to be the leading topic in London, and day after day the police court at Marylebone is crowded by an aristocratic audience that listens intently and wonderingly to the extraordinary evidence presented by the dramatist.

The dramatic personae in the latest phase of the claim to the title and estates of the present duke of Portland are: Thomas Charles Druce, sworn to have died on December 22, 1864, by Herbert Druce (the defendant), his nephew, who said he saw him in his coffin.

George Hollamby Druce, plaintiff, who is proceeding against his uncle, the last-named, for perjury, inasmuch as he avers Thomas Charles Druce did not die until 1879; that the funeral was a mock one, and that deceased was in reality the fifth duke of Portland.

Robert Caldwell, a native of county Monaghan, Ireland, who emigrated to America in 1871, and who swears that it was he himself who led in the coffin for the alleged mock burial.

Facts in the Case. The essential facts in this romantic case were first published in 1898. The claimant was then Mrs. Anna Druce. For several years Mrs. Druce, who believed herself to be the widow of the eldest legitimate son of Thomas Charles Druce, of the Baker street Bazaar, made unavailing efforts to compel the Consistory Court to grant her an order to open the grave of her husband's father in Highgate Cemetery. In this grave, she alleged, was buried not the body of Thomas Druce, but a quantity of lead. Druce, she said, was really the fifth duke of Portland, who did not die until 1879. Unfortunately for Mrs. Druce, the facts as to the death of Thomas Druce were sworn to by doctors and a housekeeper, and the courts refused to grant the order.

The Druce case was beginning to lose interest, when a new claimant appeared in the person of George Hollamby Druce, an Australian carpenter. He claimed to have a better right than Mrs. Anna Druce to take an interest in the Portland claim, inasmuch as he was the son of the eldest son of Thomas Charles Druce by a first marriage with Elizabeth Crickmer, at Bury St. Edmunds, on October 13, 1816.

A Runaway Match. According to the Hollamby Druce claim, this marriage was a runaway match between T. C. Druce, described as a linen draper, and a schoolgirl heiress with a fortune of £15,000. The "draper" is said to have appeared from nowhere, a handsome young man, without friends or relatives. For three years he lived with his wife, spending his money freely. In 1839, his wife's fortune having disappeared, he deserted her and her children.

For fifteen years the Druce family at Bury St. Edmunds heard no more of their father. In 1854 he seems to have suddenly reappeared, and, discovering that the ship on which the father of the present claimant was serving his apprenticeship was lying in the Thames, he went down to Gravesend and sent for his 16-year-old son.

Now for the first time the Druce family learned that the missing father was the proprietor of a bazaar in Baker street. The boy was taken there, educated at a naval academy and again sent to sea. His

sister, the aunt of the claimant, was also sent for, and lived for many years with her father, who now appears as the owner of a residence at Brighton, a hunting box in Leicestershire, and a country seat at Hendon.

The question that the courts are now asked to decide is: Was this man Druce, the owner of the bazaar, grandfather of George Hollamby Druce, really the fifth duke of Portland?

Lord Howard de Walden comes into the case by reason of the will left by the fourth duke, who provided that in the event of the fifth duke and his brother dying without heirs the life interest in the estate should go to the survivor of four sisters and then to the descendants of that survivor. Lord Henry Bentinck dying without an heir, the life interest went to Lady Howard de Walden, and so to her son.

Immense Property Involved.

The present charge is regarded by George Hollamby Druce and those acting on his behalf as a preliminary to a struggle for the London estate of the present Lord Howard de Walden.

In his will the fourth duke of Portland directed that this property should descend to his son, the fifth duke, and to his son's heir.

Falling the fifth duke having an heir, the property was to descend in the female line. On the assumption that the fifth duke did not marry, the estate went to the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden. But now George Hollamby Druce is seeking to establish that the fifth duke did marry in the name of T. C. Druce, who was this George Hollamby's grandfather. These grounds he will seek to establish by his title to this London estate. This property alone is worth an almost fabulous fortune. It lies in the region of Oxford street, Portland place, Cavendish square, Wimpole street, Harley street, and other thoroughfares. When it came into the possession of the Dowager Lady de Walden it is recorded that it furnished her with the splendid income of £130,000 a year. It is impossible to say exactly what it yields today, but its value has risen considerably since that time, and it is probable that the estimates, which place the annual rental at between £250,000 and £300,000, are fairly correct. If we take £300,000 a year as the rental, this capitalized would mean an immense fortune in itself.

The Portland Estates.

At present the plaintiff is not making a direct claim upon the estate of the duke of Portland. But if he should succeed in establishing his right to the De Walden property, he confidently expects that he will obtain that of the duke. This would mean the transference of such estates as go with the dukedom, properties dazzling in value as well as size and dignity.

The Portland estates cover an area considerably greater than that of the whole of Middlesex. The annual value of these properties is variously estimated at from £120,000 to £150,000. If we take the higher figure, that represents at 5 per cent. a capital of £3,000,000, or at 4 per cent., £3,750,000. But even this does not fully represent the wealth of the duke. Welbeck Abbey is crammed with precious pictures, statuary, tapestry and furniture which alone are worth a fortune. Some idea of the value of these treasures may be gathered from the fact that a single table there is said to be worth £15,000.

Truant for Fifteen Months. LONDON, Nov. 30.—John Kidd has been sent to an industrial school by the Sunderland magistrates for failing to return from school for fifteen months.

RUSSIAN NIHILISTS EXECUTED WHOLESALE

Short Work Being Made of Revolutionists in Empire of the Czar.

PRISONERS BUTCHERED

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 30. The wholesale execution of the Revolutionists, Social Democrats, Nihilists and others, who are endeavoring to do away with the autocracy and bureaucracy, continues.

The majority of the executions are for "expropriating" government funds by revolutionists, who are evidently carrying out their campaign against the government mainly with the money they seize from the crown officials and officers.

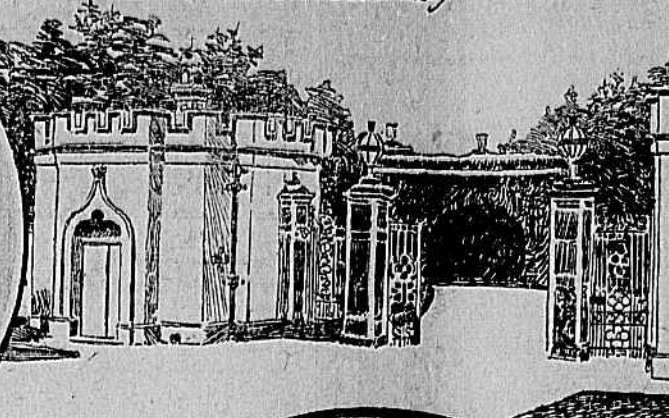
During twenty days in October 1400 political prisoners were sent away from St. Petersburg alone. The usual destination of the exiles is Siberia or the northern governments of Russia.

Twenty-five of thirty-three Russian convicts were killed in a desperate fight in the dark in a prison corridor in Khabarovsk, Tobolsk, where they attempted to overcome the military escort. The handful on their feet, clambered up the wall and made for the forests. One, who carried a carbine, was struggling over the wall when a soldier ran toward him and, addressing him as "comrade," offered to hold the carbine for a moment. The prisoner, believing him to be a fellow-convict, dropped the carbine, and the soldier thereupon bayoneted him to death.

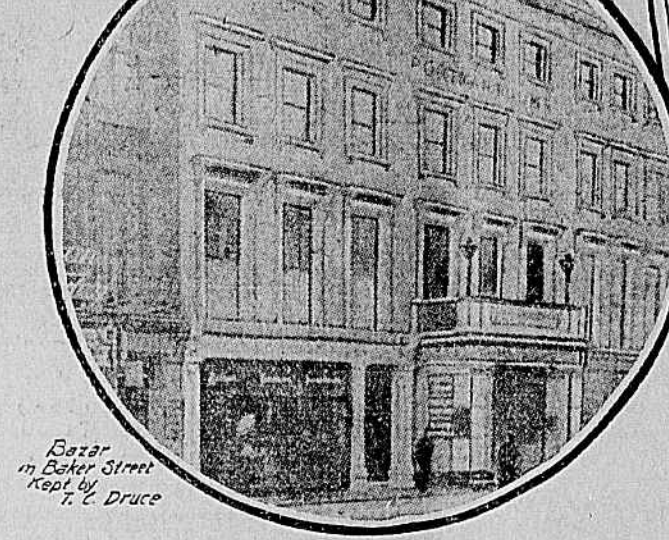
Blind Vicer Designs.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—Canon William Short, who is lying ill, has, on medical advice, resigned the living of St. Martin's, London, and is now at a dwelling house.

Entrance to one of the Towers of Wallack Abbey



George Hollamby Druce Grandson of T.C. Druce



PRINCIPALS AND SCENES IN FAMOUS DRUCE CASE

WIRELESS TELEPHONY
IS NOW A SUCCESS

Perfect Communication is Established Over a Distance of Fifty Miles.

MARVEL OF PROGRESS

BERLIN, Nov. 30. A remarkable feat in wireless telephony has been achieved by the Amalgamated Radi-Telegraph Company, Ltd. Perfect telephonic communication, without wires, has been obtained over fifty miles on land between the company's laboratory, near Berlin, and a small station at Juterbog, the whole of Berlin intervening.

This was achieved by using the undamped continuous waves generated by the system of Mr. Valdemar Poulsen, who brought wireless telephony within possibility by substituting for the uneven and diminishing waves—"damped" waves that are termed a regular flow of such waves. He discovered a method of doing this by the aid of the "arc" instead of the "spark," as employed in other systems.

Hitherto, however, the company has devoted the system to developing its telegraphic service, but now, after this telegraphic triumph, it will probably go forward in the direction of giving the world a practical system of wireless telephony.

In connection with the system there is a remarkable method in which, by the use of a photographic recording ribbon, the company can print signals received even when the current is not strong enough to make sounds audible in the telephone receiver.

The possibilities of the new means of communication are incalculable, and the recent accomplishment represents a progress which is amazing even to the modern mind.

Wedding Party Is Wrecked by Flood

Bridegroom Swims for Help and Later Rescues Bride on a Horse.

ALL IN GRAVE DANGER

PARIS, Nov. 30. An extraordinary adventure happened this morning to a wedding party near Nérac, the home of President Fallieres. The bride and bridegroom and forty guests were driving from the church to a village six miles distant, where the wedding breakfast was to be held. On their way they were overtaken by the waters of the flooded Garonne, and their carriages were literally "shipwrecked."

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To Encourage Shooting. LONDON, Nov. 30.—Lord Denman, who has just been re-elected president of the Balmace (Sussex) Rifle Club, has announced his intention, with a view to stimulating interest in rifle shooting, to give monthly prizes of silver snuffboxes and medals for competition among the members during the winter; also prizes to the value of £25 for competition during Christmas.

KAISER'S YACHT
SEVERE SIMPLICITY

Ostentations Avoided in All the Arrangements Aboard the Hohenzollern.

DISPLAY IS LACKING

PLYMOUTH, Nov. 30. As royal yachts go, the Kaiser's yacht, the Hohenzollern, is by no means specially gorgeous. Plenty of show and glitter would somehow be expected. Instead, severe simplicity is the keynote.

The Kaiser's own apartments are especially simple. A brass bedstead along one side of the bulkhead, a single wardrobe, a dressing table, with a very large triple mirror, and a barber's chair, with a headrest, are all the furniture. The walls are nearly bare, almost the only thing hanging on them being a faded New Year's card, in a little black frame. The card is inscribed, "To dearest Willy, with all best New Year wishes, from mamma." Photographs of the Kaiser and the Kaiserin are in practically complete the wall furniture.

Elsewhere, all over the yacht, the walls are absolutely covered with pictures. Little sketches by Martino, larger pictures by Willy Stower, some choice old engravings, frequently of incidents in British naval history, some modern proof engravings, photographs of nearly all the ships in the German navy, special photographs of incidents in the Kaiser's various cruises, are cheek by jowl with other examples of the catholicity of the Kaiser's taste. Among these are also to be noted two of the four-page supplements of the British fleet, issued by the Graphic, and an ordinary colored Christmas number plate from the Sporting and Dramatic. "Nelson's Last Hours" (Portsmouth). One or two German chromo-lithographs are also to be found beside most valuable old engravings or artistic masterpieces.

There is, however, one stranger picture still. It hangs just outside the Kaiser's cabin. It is a rather large photograph of an Orange demonstration at Belfast, entitled "We Will Not Have Home Rule!"

Revival of Kilt on Scottish Soil

Ancient Costume of Highland Chief and Clansman Becoming Popular in London.

IT COSTS MUCH MONEY

LONDON, Nov. 30. Successful attempts are being made in Scotland to revive the wearing of the kilt, which, until comparatively recent times, was only to be seen, except on very special occasions, in out-of-the-way parts of the country.

A correspondent writing to the Times on the growing use of the kilt remarked: "Twenty years ago the kilt was practically unknown in the city of Aberdeen. It was, indeed, held up to universal ridicule by the townsfolk. That has quite changed, and on my last visit to Aberdeen I discovered that even the schoolboys have recovered that ancient costume of evening dress, and what is more strange still, many of the young men of the better-to-do classes are learning to play the pipes."

The manager of one of the principal firms of Scottish tailors in the West End of London stated recently that the movement was making considerable headway among the upper and middle classes. "In London," he said, "there is a growing demand for Highland evening dress outfits among the large body of Scotchmen who belong to the various national societies."

"The Scottish evening dress is as costly as it is picturesque. A complete outfit would be cheap at £150, the average price paid ranging from £200 to £250. It is possible, however, to spend as much as £500 or £200, or even more, in the matter of ornaments."

The ordinary outdoor Highland dress is not so expensive, a very fair price to give being between £50 and £65.

FAMOUS OLD PALACE
NO LONGER STANDS

Last Vestige of Residence of Napoleon III and the Empress Eugenie Removed.

WAS RUINED BY SHELLS

PARIS, Nov. 30. The last vestige of the famous old palace of St. Cloud has been removed by the pulling down of the old railway station reserved for distinguished and royal visitors to the Emperor Napoleon III and the Empress Eugenie when in residence at St. Cloud.

The little station was thickly overgrown with grass and weeds. Birds had built their nests in the imperial waiting-room, and luscious young trees had grown up in the reserved space around the station. No train had stopped at it for thirty-seven years. The last occasion on which the station was used was on the morning of the French declaration of war on Germany, when the officers of the Imperial Guard were conveyed by special train to lunch with the emperor.

A few months later the magnificent old stone palace, which seemed destined to last for centuries, had been reduced to a mass of smoking ruins by the bombardment from the surrounding hills.

FIGHT WITH SWORDS
IN A PUBLIC COURT

Two Desperate Convicts Attack the Judge and the Public Prosecutor.

DISARMED BY POLICE

VIENNA, Nov. 30. Two convicts named Wimmer and Trinkl, who were yesterday sentenced in the Vienna Criminal Court to three years' hard labor, to be followed by detention in a penal colony, made a desperate attempt to revenge themselves on the judge and public prosecutor.

Wimmer, on hearing the sentence, shouted: "I won't take that!" and both prisoners made a rush for the bench. They had climbed the balustrade in front of the bench before Trinkl was seized by a policeman and pulled down. Wimmer snatched a policeman's sword and struck at the public prosecutor.

Four policemen, with drawn swords, attacked Wimmer and disarmed him. Both prisoners were then carried, shouting, from court.

SMUGGLER POSES AS FRONTIER GUARD

Levied Blackmail on Other Smugglers and Rapidly Made a Fortune.

VIENNA, Nov. 30. Josef Gunther, a Bohemian smuggler, has been arrested on the Austro-German frontier in the uniform of an Austrian frontier guard.

He confessed that after suffering much at the hands of the frontier guards in his own smuggling career, he had adopted their uniform to harry other smugglers. He had caught twenty-six during six months, and had confiscated their goods as the price of giving them their liberty.

In this way he had made a handsome income. His career as an amateur gendarme was closed when he met a party of the real frontier guards, who recognized him in spite of his uniform, and made him prisoner.

SEVEN MEN WHOSE AGES AGGREGATE 513 YEARS

The Clarkes, of Duffield, England, are a remarkable family. There are seven brothers and a sister; they are all in robust health, with a combined age of 513 years, an average of 73 years each. All the brothers have been (two still are) employed in paper making, one being manager of the local paper mills. Their ages are as follows (reading from left to right on bottom, then back row): Adam, 82 years 1 month; Tom, 77 years 7 months; (Mrs. W., sister, not in group, 76 years 4 months); Paul, 74 years 6 months; Joseph, 73 years; Andrew, 69 years 1 month; John, 66 years 4 months; Elias, 61 years 7 months. As some of them have settled away from their native place—one in Westmoreland, another in Kent—the whole family have not been together for many years, so they are all glad to reach a ripe old age; in fact, they gave the photographer a commission to take another group when they were 100.

TWO HUNTERS KILLED
BY FIERCE WILD BOAR

Wounded, the Animal Savagely Assails Pursuers, Whom He Fatally Gores.

SUCCUMB TO WOUNDS

PARIS, Nov. 30. A tragic accident of the chase, resulting in the loss of two lives, occurred yesterday in the woods of Rehon, in the department of the Meurthe and Moselle. During a bear hunt a party of sportsmen came across an old boar, and a M. Rischer fired, wounding the beast slightly.

The boar charged, knocked M. Rischer down, and buried his tusks in his flesh. Another gentleman, M. Frimont, who stood a few yards away, fired at the boar. The animal turned upon M. Frimont and ripped his side with its tusks. A few minutes later other members of the hunt came up and succeeded in killing the boar, but M. Rischer died half an hour later. A doctor was sent for to attend M. Frimont, who, however, was mortally wounded, and died this morning.

Baron's Model Cottages. LONDON, Nov. 30.—Twelve model cottages, overlooking Pyrgo Park, Essex, the seat of Baron O'Hagan, and bearing the family crest and monogram, have been erected by the baron.

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ILLEGAL WORK ENDED

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**CAMORRIST BANDS
FIGHT FOR SUPREMACY**

Tragedies of Dreaded Secret Society Come Thick and Fast in Italian Provinces.

ROME, Nov. 30. Camorra tragedies succeeded one another thick and fast in the Neapolitan provinces.

Sansone, the Camorra chief of the province of Bari, was waylaid and mortally wounded by a band of defeated rival candidates. Sansone, who is but a young man, kept his stealthy assailants at bay for some time, till they finally overpowered him, leaving him with his life pierced all over with their daggers.

At the Granatello di Portici Prison at Resina a Camorra chief named Jengo was hung into a big cell full of criminals, among whom chance to be a leading Naples Camorrist named Petronio. In the Italian provinces the Camorrist leaders still retain dictatorial power over the rank and file, even while incarcerated in the common prison. On this occasion Jengo disputed the primacy of jurisdiction with Petronio. As the quarrel waxed warmer Petronio suddenly unsheathed a dagger and slashed mercilessly at the face of his foe, cutting off flesh from both cheeks. The other prisoners quickly formed into party groups to exterminate each other.

Military had to be summoned to quell the riot, and an inquiry has been ordered to discover how Petronio was able to carry a weapon in jail. This is the second case of the kind lately noticed in the former one, in which two Camorra convict rivals fought a duel with knives in a prison courtyard, each inflicting mortal wounds on the other.

Yesterday Antonio Farah, one of the six Camorra councilors of Naples, who had been committed for trial in connection with the Cuccoli murders, was examined by a magistrate, when he thrust his fist through a window and attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with the broken glass.

At Vietri, a seaside town near Salerno, an officer of Carabinieri named Liguri was brutally murdered by Camorrista while entering a tavern where they were holding a secret meeting.

Ships for Salvation Army. LONDON, Nov. 30.—It is well known that the Salvation Army has its own shipping department, and is busily engaged in connection with emigration to Canada during the season. At a dinner held in London it was suggested that the Salvation Army is likely to go a good deal further, and that there is not only a possibility, but a probability, that before long it may own a number of Atlantic steamers. The Shipping Gazette writes a fear that unpleasantness may arise should the army begin to compete for freight.

SENATOR'S ACCOUNTS
ARE BADLY MIXED

Grave Developments Arise in the Sensational Trial of Italian Ex-Minister.

HOW THE MONEY WENT

ROME, Nov. 30. The grave developments of the Naselli trial make it probable that the Senate will refer the whole affair afresh to the Chamber of Deputies for additional powers to include the much-debated secret grants in the scope of their jurisdiction. Some step has, as President Canonico has hinted, been demanded by public opinion, which is loth to pass unproved Senator Naselli's grievous imputation that the ministerial irregularities relating to those under his own regime were, and still are, characteristic of most of the other great departments of state.

Yesterday's evidence by Signor Capelli revealed, among other startling items, that the ministerial irregularities relating to Naples Museum alone amount to \$100,000—a fact further testified to by Signor Olando, who was Signor Naselli's successor. Then, with regard to subsidies alleged to have been disbursed among elementary schoolteachers to the extent of nearly \$150,000, the expenditure of barely \$12,000 can be verified; and in Rome alone, out of a list of 800 persons entered as recipients of educational grants, only eight were found, on inquiry, to be in any way eligible. The total sum actually distributed among them was \$2320, and the remaining \$50,000 set down under that head is altogether unexplained, nor has Signor Naselli apparently any solution to offer.

Many thousand lire are said to have been bestowed by Signor Naselli upon a fellow-citizen at Trapani named Piazza for the utterly fabulous invention of a machine for the destruction of phylloxera. Other amazing allegations comprised, it is affirmed, a series of liberal donations to a Roman midwife, which were passed off among grants for the "advance of philological studies," while a bulky collection of phylloxera Camorrista councilors of Naples, under the heading of "Grants for the termination of insects noxious to agriculture."

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CHIEF HAKED TO DEATH

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HISTORIC LETTERS
AT SALE BY AUCTION

Autograph Manuscripts of Dickens, Byron, Disraeli and Thackeray.

RECORD PRICES GIVEN

LONDON, Nov. 30. A collection of interesting autograph letters came under the hammer at Messrs. Sotheby's yesterday, including many rare letters from royal personages, a series from Thackeray, Dickens, Disraeli and others, to the famous Lady Blessington. This last lot proved to be the feature of the sale, consisting of forty-two separate items. It was knocked down to Mr. Sabia at \$1575.

Next in importance were seven letters in the autograph of Lord Byron, all of extreme literary interest, six of them having been written shortly after Shelley's death, addressed to Mr. Trelawney while the latter was in charge of Lord Byron's schooner, the Bolivar.

These letters, too, had additional interest, owing to the fact that none of them is printed in Mr. Prothero's edition of Lord Byron. For these seven letters a total of \$430 was secured, the purchasers being Mr. Pearson and Mr. Nagge.

An especially noteworthy item was a photograph letter signed by King Charles I addressed to the Elector Palatine, which Mr. Brown, who had come specially from Edinburgh, carried off for \$200.

The day's total amounted to close on \$500.

Luxurious Paupers. LONDON, Nov. 30.—The master reported to the Meriden Guardians yesterday that a quantity of game, including pheasants, hares and rabbits, had been sent to the workhouse, and that the inmates much preferred this to the usual fare.